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SEGA
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOREVER?!
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DIRECT EDITION
14211

FOR YEARS THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR GOOD, PROTECTING THE INNOCENT OF KNOTHOLE AND ABROAD. AS WITH EVERY STORY THERE IS A BEGINNING. THESE FIVE HEROES WOULD GO ON TO INSPIRE GENERATIONS TO COME. MOST NOTABLY, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG AND THE PRESENT DAY FREEDOM FIGHTERS. THIS IS THE STORY OF

THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

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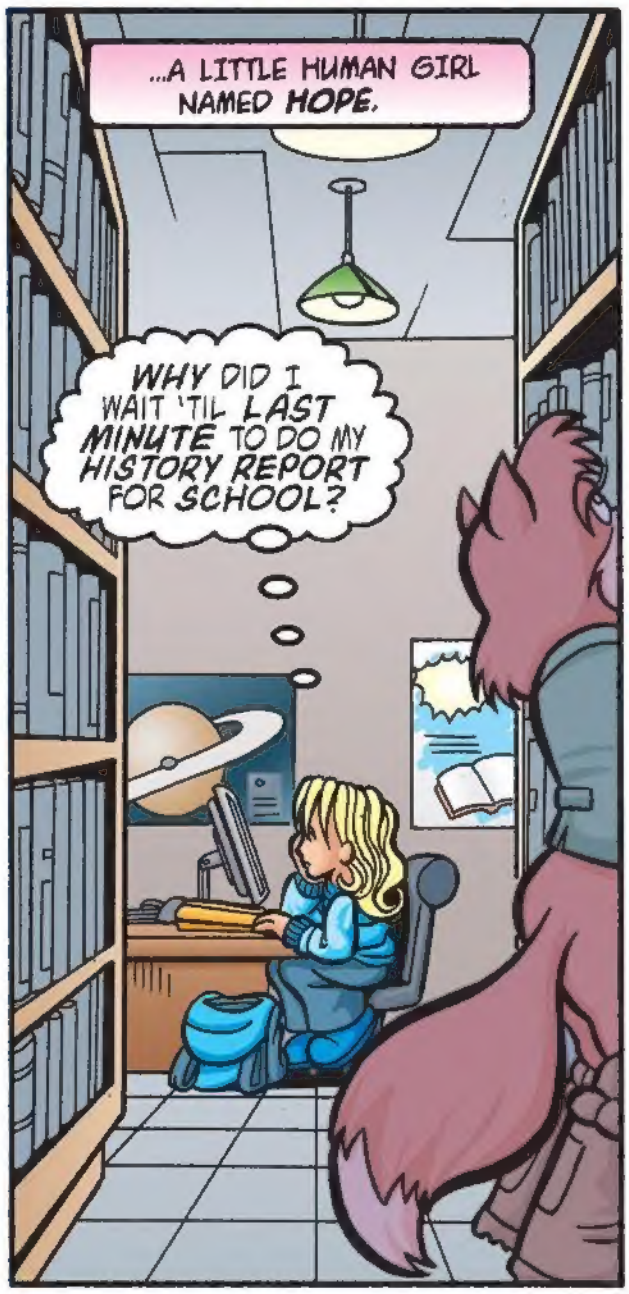
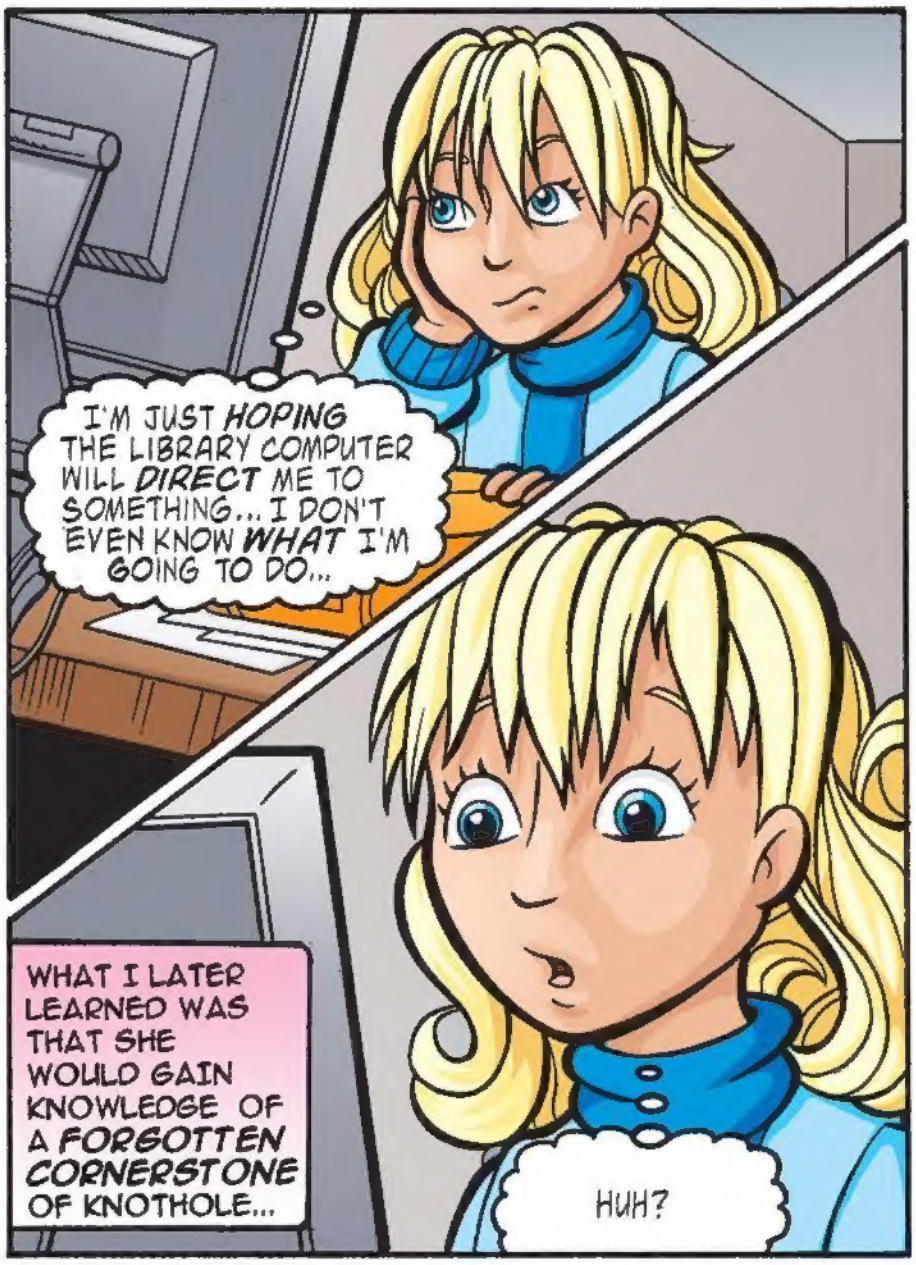
KNOTHOLE LIBRARY. CORNERSTONE OF KNOWLEDGE.

I SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF MY TIME HERE THESE DAYS, AS DOES ONE OF MY BEST STUDENTS...


...A LITTLE HUMAN GIRL NAMED HOPE.
WHY DID I WAIT 'TIL LAST MINUTE TO DO MY HISTORY REPORT FOR SCHOOL?


I'M JUST HOPING THE LIBRARY COMPUTER WILL DIRECT ME TO SOMETHING... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO...
WHAT I LATER LEARNED WAS THAT SHE WOULD GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF A FORGOTTEN CORNERSTONE OF KNOTHOLE...
HUH?

THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS
PART 1

...INTERESTING !

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROBERT LEFFLER AND DYNA LOPEZ AT SEGA LICENSING™

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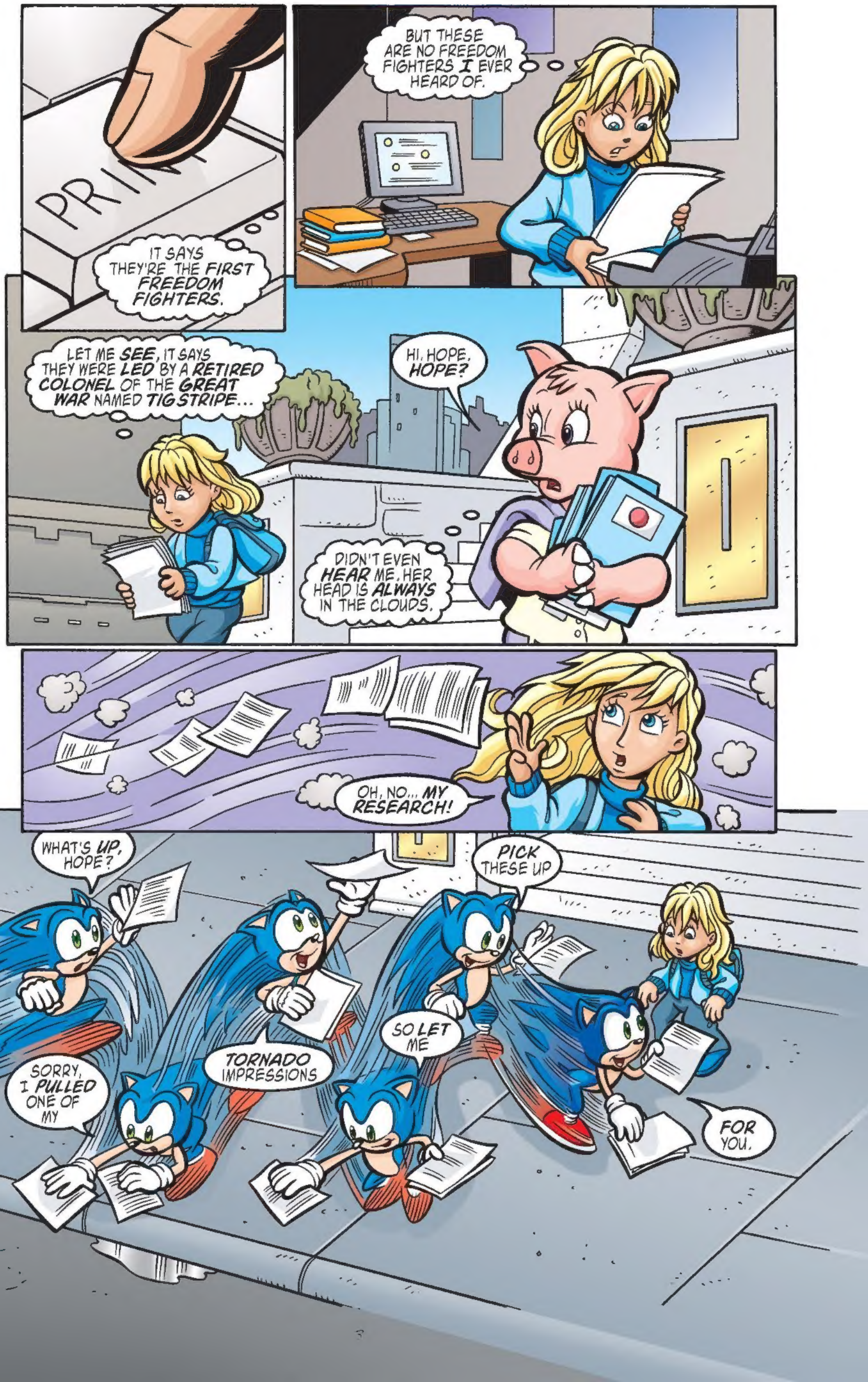
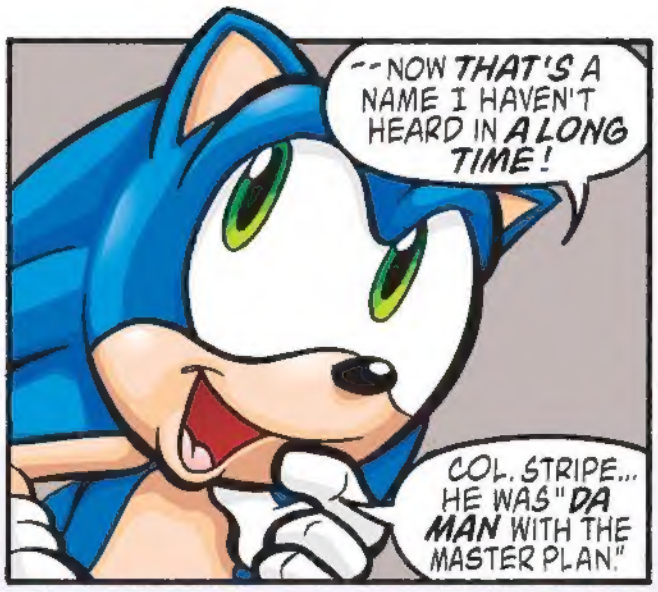
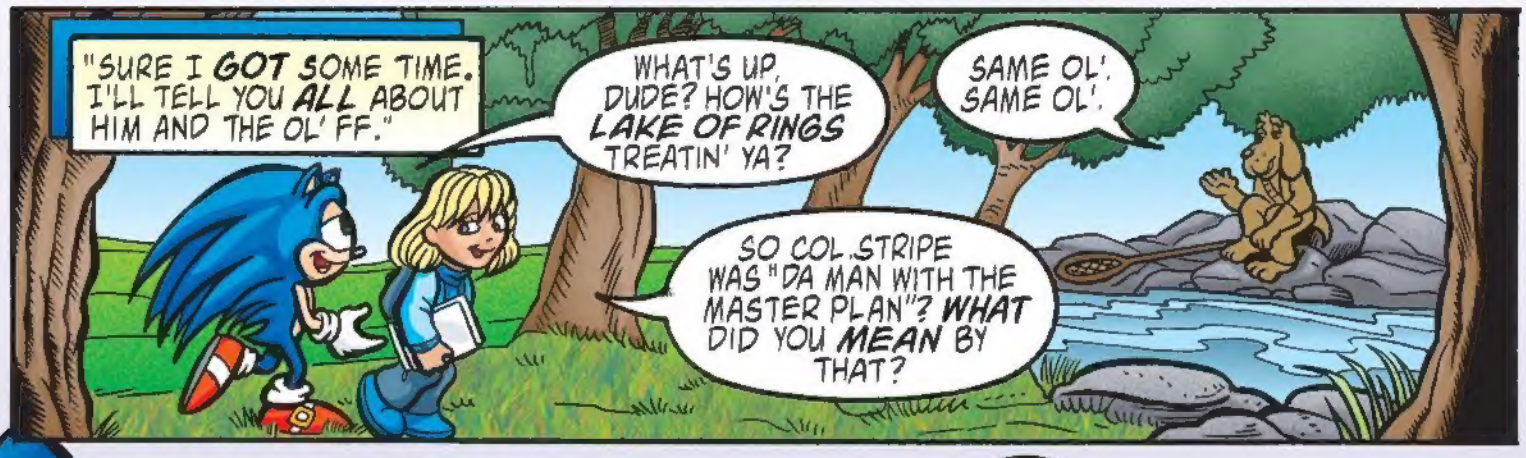

PRI
IT SAYS THEY'RE THE FIRST FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
BUT THESE ARE NO FREEDOM FIGHTERS I EVER HEARD OF.
LET ME SEE, IT SAYS THEY WERE LED BY A RETIRED COLONEL OF THE GREAT WAR NAMED TIGSTRIPE...
HI, HOPE. HOPE?
DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME. HER HEAD IS ALWAYS IN THE CLOUDS.
OH, NO... MY RESEARCH!
WHAT'S UP, HOPE?
SORRY, I PULLED ONE OF MY
TORNADO IMPRESSIONS
SO LET ME
PICK THESE UP
FOR YOU.

HERE YOU ARE. I'M OUTTA--
SONIC, BEFORE YOU GO, COULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT COL. STRIPE AND THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS?
WHOA, GIRL--


--NOW THAT'S A NAME I HAVEN'T HEARD IN A LONG TIME!
COL. STRIPE... HE WAS "DA MAN WITH THE MASTER PLAN."

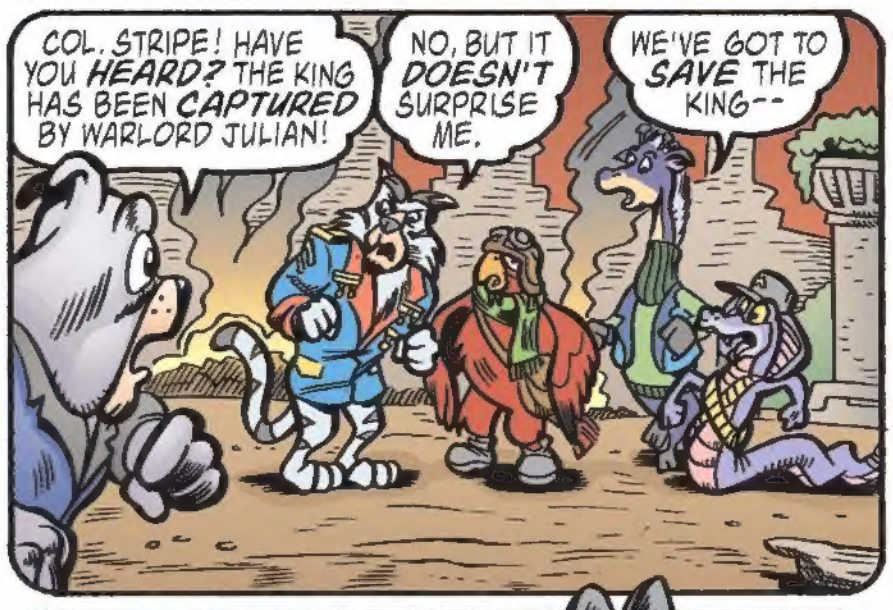

"SURE I GOT SOME TIME. I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HIM AND THE OL' FF."
WHAT'S UP, DUDE? HOW'S THE LAKE OF RINGS TREATIN' YA?
SAME OL'. SAME OL'.
SO COL. STRIPE WAS "DA MAN WITH THE MASTER PLAN"? WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

IT WAS COL. STRIPE WHO NOT ONLY PLANNED THE ESCAPE TO KNOTHOLE THE DAY ROBOTNIK TOOK OVER, BUT WAS ALSO THE ONE WHO FORMED THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
THE ORIGINAL GROUP WAS:
COL. TIG STRIPE
SPOT LONG
SIR PECKERS
PRIVATE TREY SCALES
AND MP BULL BONES.

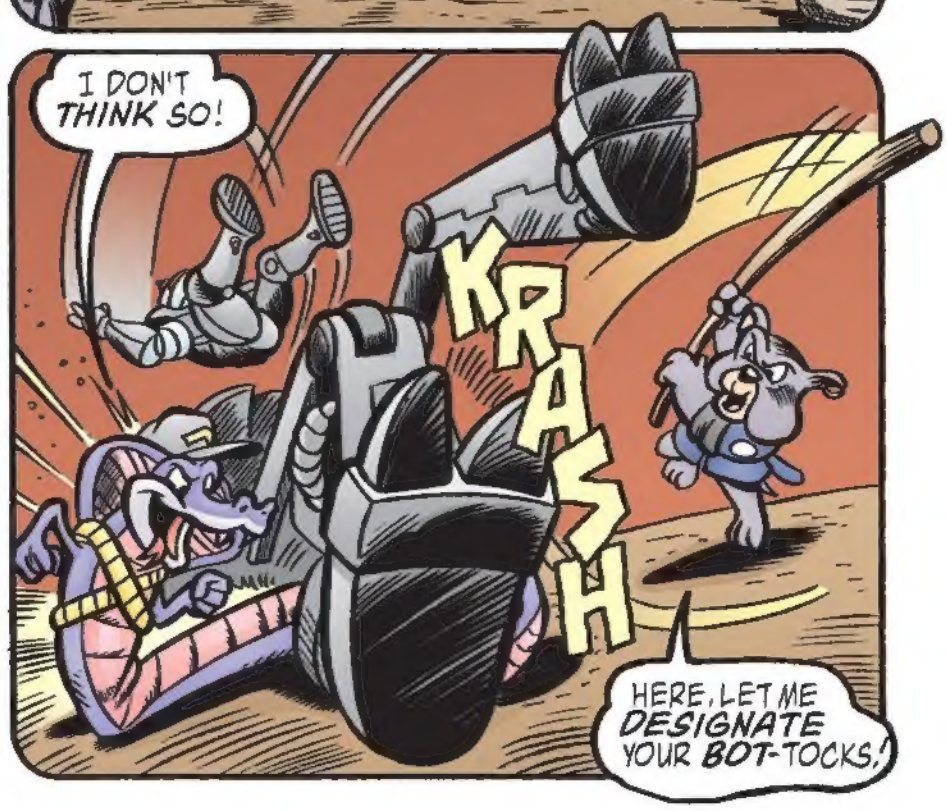
"I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD THE DAY ROBOTNIK OVERTHREW KING ACORN AND TOOK OVER OLD MOBOTROPOLIS."
"WHILE ROBOTNIK SACKED THE CASTLE, HIS SWATBOTS WERE ROUNDING UP ALL THE CITIZENS INTO ROBOTIZATION CAMPS."

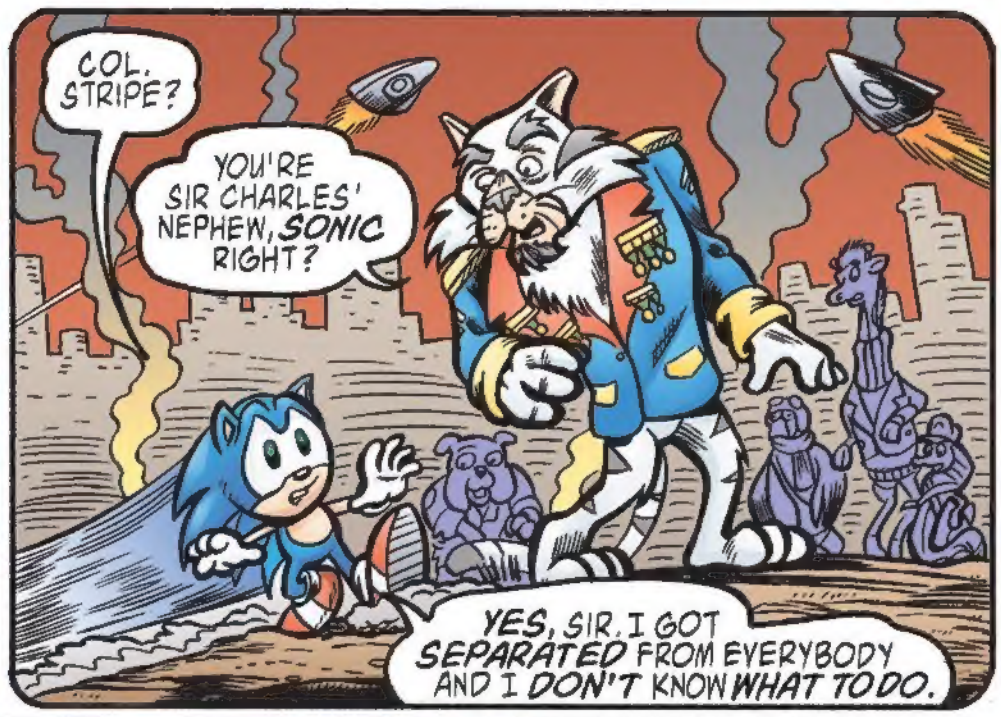
"THOUGH RETIRED, COL. STRIPE HAD NO PROBLEM GETTING INTO ROUTINE AND ISSUING ORDERS."
"HE TRIED TO GET EVERYONE TO SAFETY."

PECKERS, WHAT'S THE STATUS FROM THE SKY?
I'M AFRAID THE WHOLE CITY IS OVERRUN WITH THESE ROBOTS.
IT MUST BE WARLORD JULIAN'S WORK. SOMETHING TOLD ME HE WAS NOT TO BE TRUSTED.


COL. STRIPE! HAVE YOU HEARD? THE KING HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY WARLORD JULIAN!
NO, BUT IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME.
WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE KING--

DESIGNATION: MOBIANS. SURRENDER TO THE WILL OF DR. ROBOTNIK. YOU ARE TO BE TAKEN TO CAMP SECTION 12.5.


I DON'T THINK SO!
KRASH
HERE, LET ME DESIGNATE YOUR BOT-TOCKS!



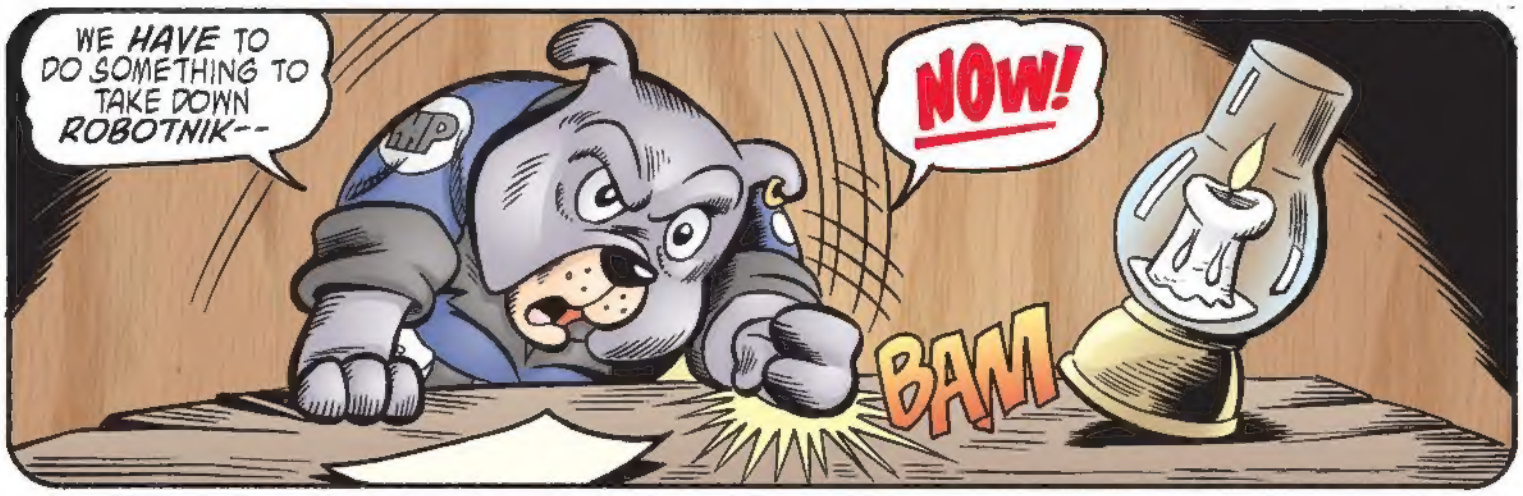
THOUGH HE MAY HAVE FELT HE WAS ABANDONING THE CITY HE GREW UP IN, HE KNEW THE ODDS WERE AGAINST THEM IF THEY FOUGHT BACK. THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THEIR BUTTS KICKED AND ALL OF US WOULD'VE BEEN LOST TO THE ROBOTICIZER THAT DAY.

HE KNEW IT WAS THE LOGICAL THING TO DO. HE SAVED US WITH HIS QUICK THINKING AND GOT HUNDREDS OF MOBIANS SAFELY TO KNOTHOLE.

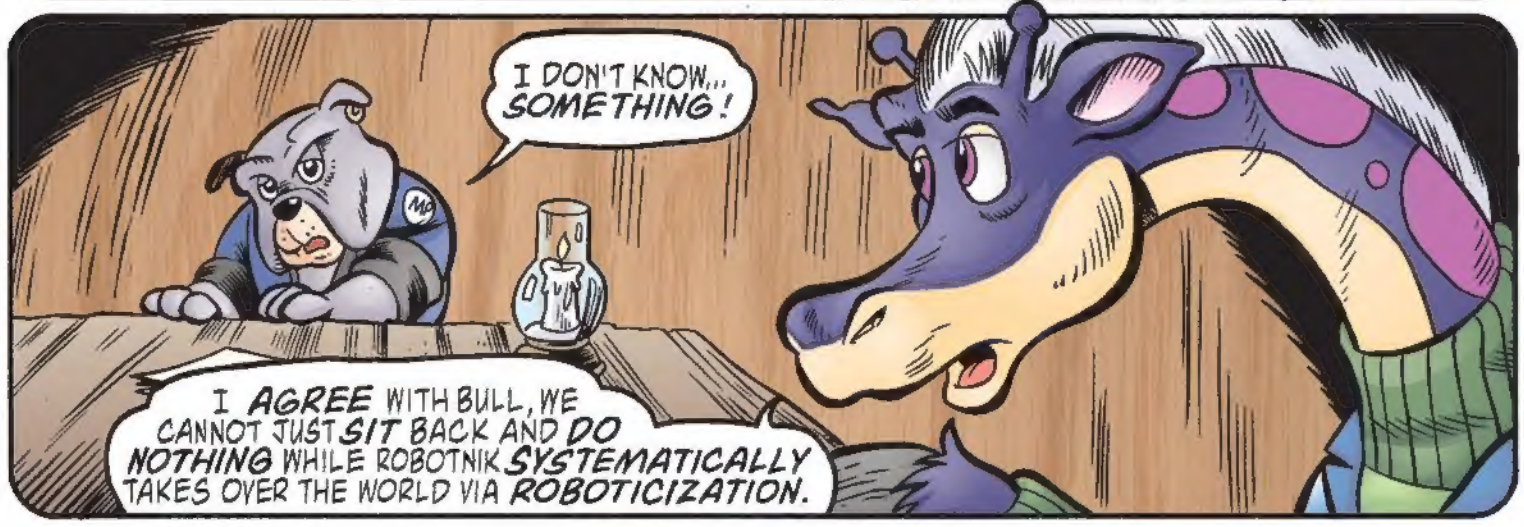
"IT WAS UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THAT KNOTHOLE BECAME AN EFFICIENT COOL VILLAGE WE COULD ALL LIVE IN."

"EVERYONE WORKED TOGETHER LIKE A FAMILY BACK THEN. ALL WE HAD WAS EACH OTHER."

"AND THEN ONE NIGHT ME AND SAL OVER HEARD THEM TALKING--"


WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO TAKE DOWN ROBOTNIK--
NOW!
BAM

"ALL I REMEMBER WAS HOW COOL COL. STRIPE WAS.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?


I DON'T KNOW... SOMETHING!
I AGREE WITH BULL, WE CANNOT JUST SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING WHILE ROBOTNIK SYSTEMATICALLY TAKES OVER THE WORLD VIA ROBOTICIZATION.

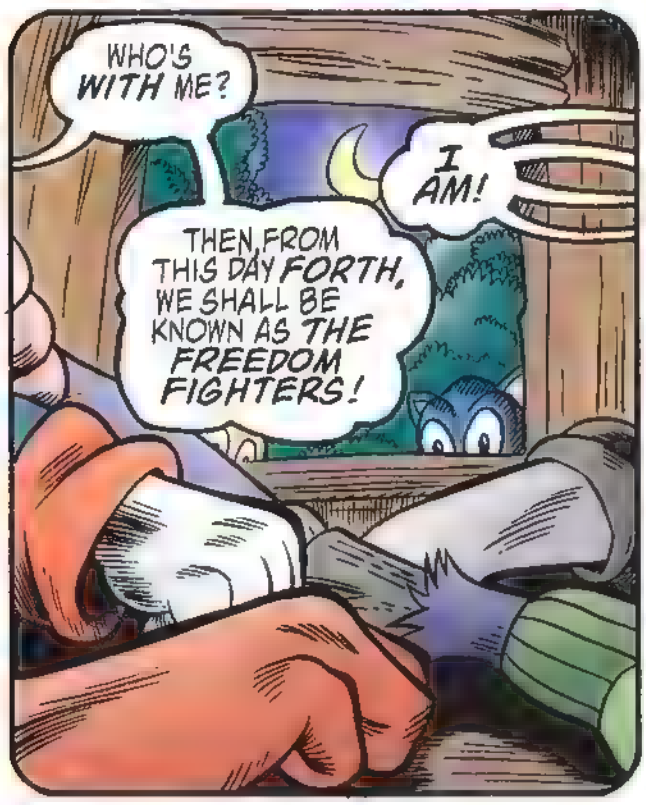
BUT TO ATTACK OUTRIGHT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY. WE DO NOT HAVE THE MOBIAN-POWER TO AMASS AN ARMY, NOR THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO WIN.

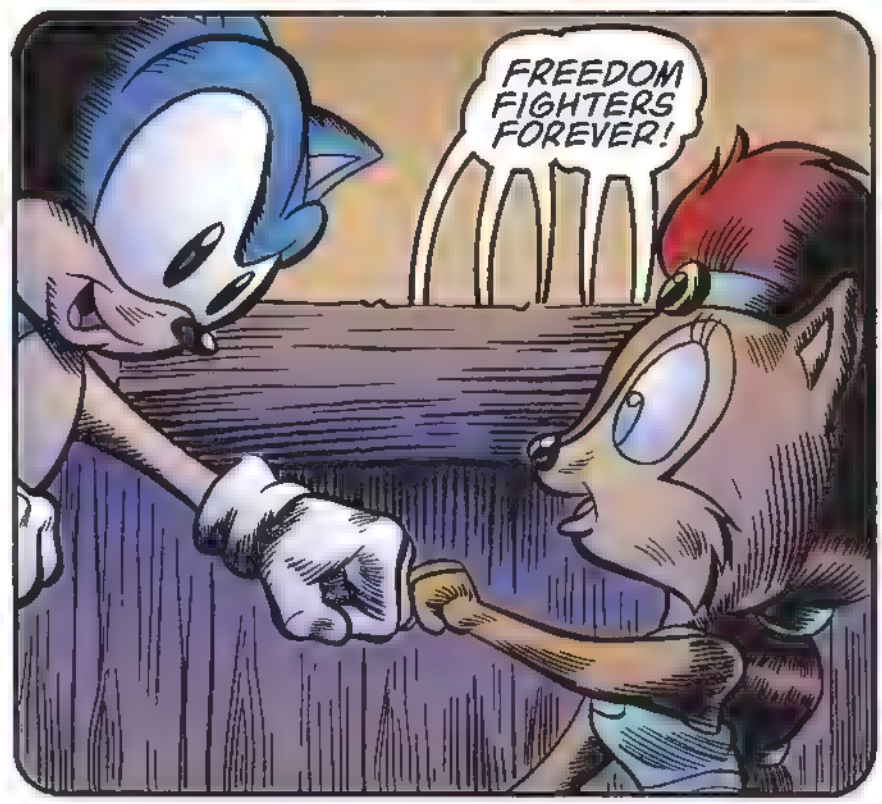
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS A LOT AS OF LATE, AND YOU ARE BOTH RIGHT. SO WE WILL DO BOTH.
HUH?

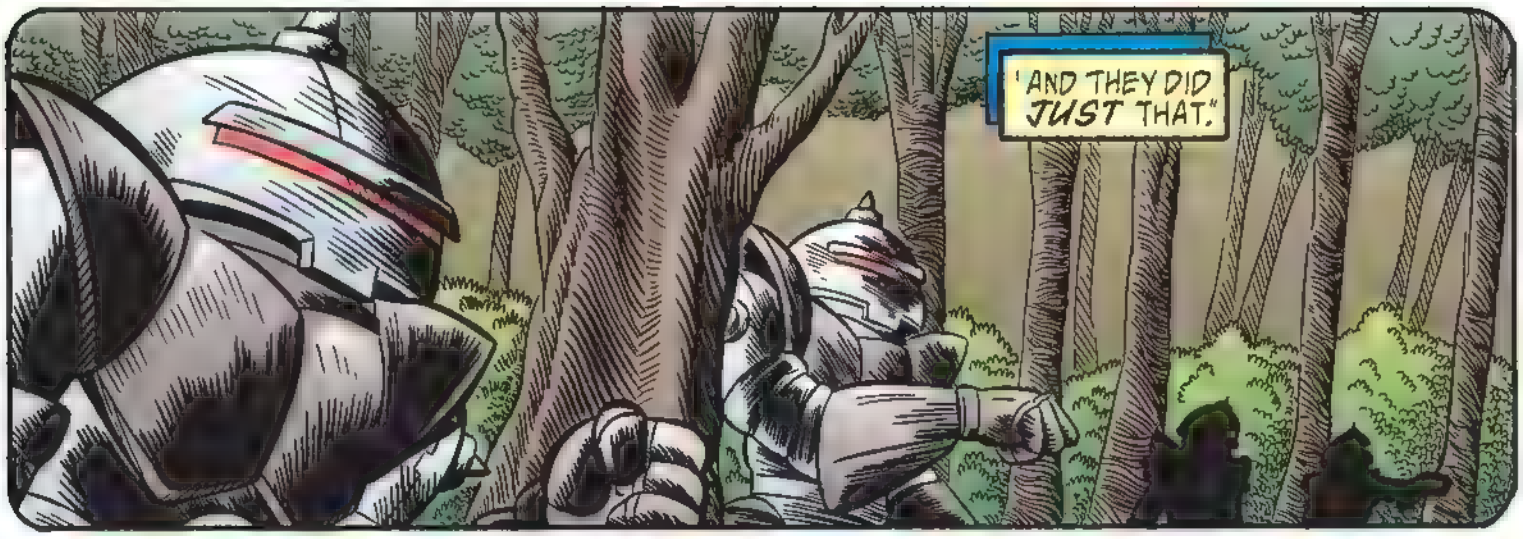
IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT RINGS TRUE TO MY HEART, IT'S THAT DOING NOTHING WHILE EVIL EXISTS IS THE WORST CRIME OF ALL. I WILL FIGHT IT AS LONG AS THERE IS BREATH IN ME.

WE MAY HAVE NO ARMY TO BATTLE THROUGH THE FRONT GATES--
--BUT WE HAVE EACH OTHER TO COORDINATE STRATEGIC SABOTAGE THROUGH THE BACKDOOR--
--AND TAKE ROBOTNIK'S RESOURCES WHENEVER POSSIBLE TO USE AGAINST HIM.

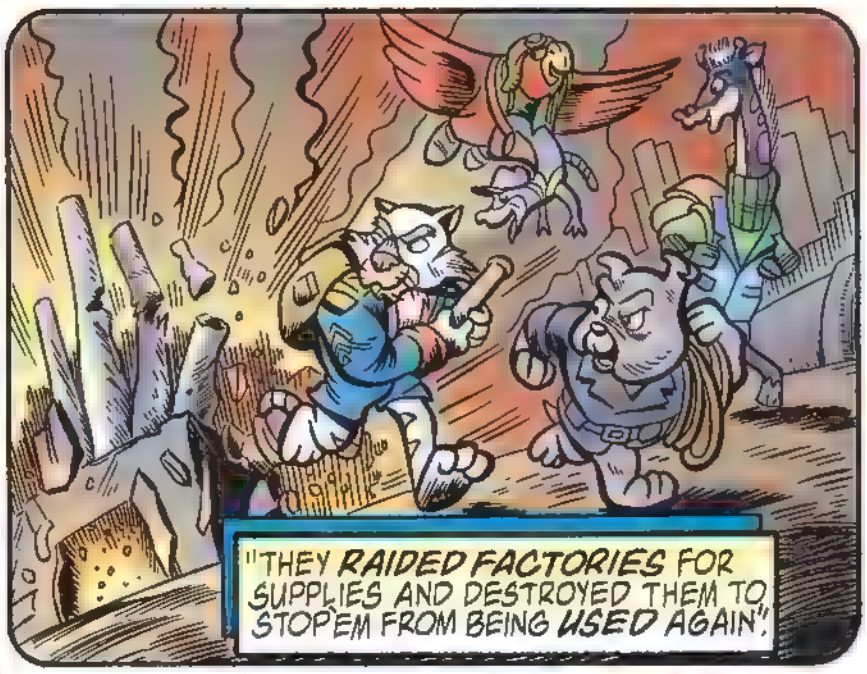
WE WILL FORM A UNIT TO STAGE HIT AND RUN OPS TO HURT AS MUCH OF ROBOTNIK'S INFRASTRUCTURE AS POSSIBLE UNTIL THEY FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT HIM.

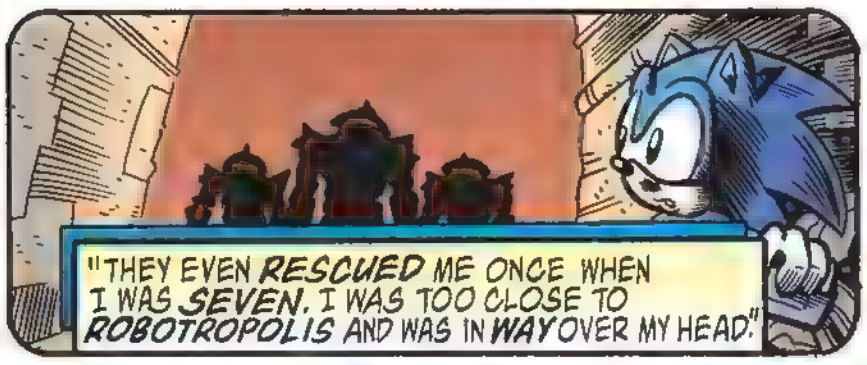

WHO'S WITH ME?
I AM!
THEN, FROM THIS DAY FORTH, WE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

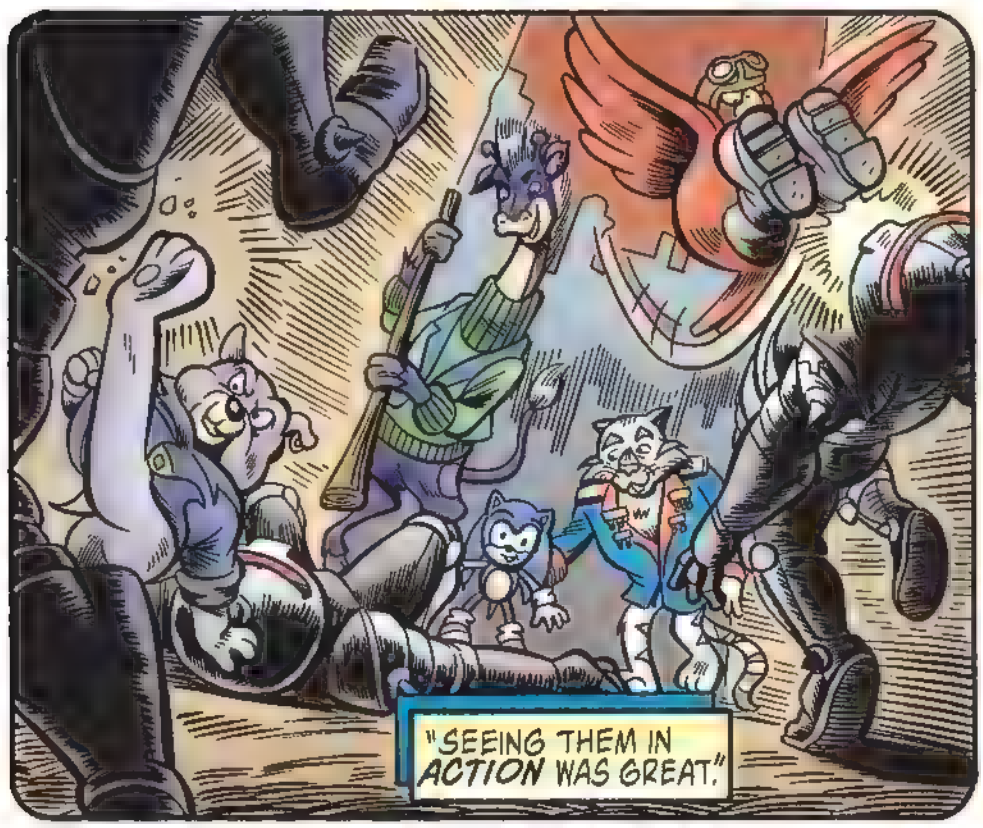

FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOREVER!

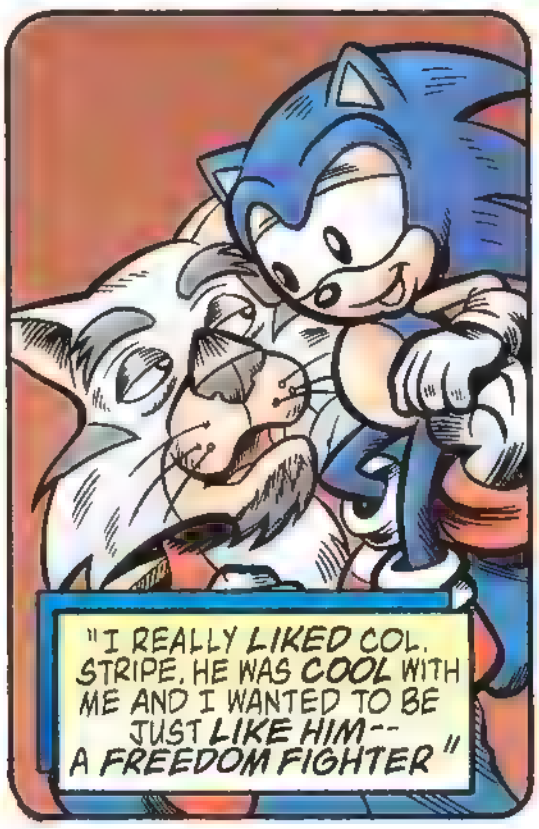

"AND THEY DID JUST THAT."

"HURTING ROBOTNIK AND HIS PLANS ANY WAY THEY COULD."


"THEY RAIDED FACTORIES FOR SUPPLIES AND DESTROYED THEM TO STOP EM FROM BEING USED AGAIN."


"THEY EVEN RESCUED ME ONCE WHEN I WAS SEVEN. I WAS TOO CLOSE TO ROBOTROPOLIS AND WAS IN WAY OVER MY HEAD."


"SEEING THEM IN ACTION WAS GREAT."


"I REALLY LIKED COL. STRIPE. HE WAS COOL WITH ME AND I WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE HIM-- A FREEDOM FIGHTER"

"THEY BECAME **HEROES** WE COULD **BELIEVE** IN. STRIPE HAD **PECKERS** USE HIS SKILLS AS A CARRIER PIGEON TO **SPREAD THE WORD** TO EVERYONE.

"FOR FREE MOBIANS TO **ORGANIZE** THEMSELVES AS FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE, **ALL OVER THE WORLD**--"

--UNTIL THE DAY THEY CAN ALL **RISE** AS ONE TO **DEFEAT ROBOTNIK ONCE AND FOR ALL.**

SO WHAT **HAPPENED** TO THEM?

THEY WERE **BETRAYED** BY ONE OF THEIR **OWN.**

TO BE CONTINUED

AMY ROSE in
I WANNA BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER!
I WANNA. I WANNA. I WANNA. I WANNA. I WANNA.
PLEASE... YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, AMY, YOU ARE WAY TOO YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED TO BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER.
AND TAILS?
HE MAY BE YOUNG, BUT HIS EXPERIENCE MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR IT.
YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO KEEP SONIC ALL TO YOURSELF. HMPH.
=SIGH=
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FINE TEAM OF:
ROMY CHACON • WRITER STEVEN BUTLR • PENCILER
JIM AMASH • INKER JOHN WORKMAN • LETTERER
JASON JENSEN • COLORIST

AND *THAT* WAS THE FIRST TIME *AMY ROSE* SHOWED ANY INTEREST IN *BECOMING* A FREEDOM FIGHTER.

I'M GONNA DIE ON STAGE, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.

THE NEXT TIME SHE *WANTED* TO JOIN US, SHE DECIDED TO USE *SONIC'S BILLIONTH MAGIC RING* TO WISH HERSELF OLDER.*

* *IN SONIC #'s 79-80*

AND THOUGH SHE WAS *OLDER PHYSICALLY,* SHE WAS STILL VERY *YOUNG AND IMMATURE, MENTALLY.*

AT LEAST, UNTIL *NOW.* I THINK AMY HAS *GROWN* TO BE A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY...

...INSIDE AND OUT.

TH-THANK YOU, *PRINCESS SALLY.*

I HATE THIS WAR WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST ROBOTNIK. IN A WAY, WE'VE ALL BEEN FIGHTING IT ALL OUR LIVES.
WE'VE HAD GREAT VICTORIES AND TERRIBLE LOSSES OVER THE YEARS...
...BUT WE DO WHAT MUST BE DONE, AND WE DO IT TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY.
EVEN DURING THE WORST OF CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK WORKING TOGETHER BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN EACH OF US. NOTHING WAS MORE EVIDENT OF THAT THAN THE DAY AMY ROSE STOOD IN FRONT OF THE FIRST BATTALION OF SWATBOTS AND BATTLED THEM ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY.*
*IN SONIC #132.

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY PIKO-PIKO HAMMER.
SORRY.
NO, NO... YOU'RE RIGHT. IF I'M GOING TO TELL THE STORY, I HAVE TO TELL IT RIGHT.
AMY (AND HER PIKO-PIKO HAMMER) GAVE EVERYONE AT FORT ACORN THE TIME NEEDED TO PLAN A GOOD DEFENSE AGAINST THE SECOND, AND MUCH DEADLIER, BATTALION OF 'BOTS, AND SAVED US ALL FROM NUCLEAR FALLOUT.
THAT IS WHY TODAY, WE ARE HONORING AMY ROSE HEDGEHOG WITH THE ACORN MEDAL OF VALOR.
I- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

I PRESENT TO YOU, THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS:

AMY ROSE

FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOREVER! YEEPEE!

END

...WE'RE ON A BUILD-UP TO DETONATION...

...BEST GUESS...A YEAR, MAYBE MORE, MAYBE LESS...

...SO WHAT DO WE DO...?

...I WANNA BE A GUARDIAN.

HON?

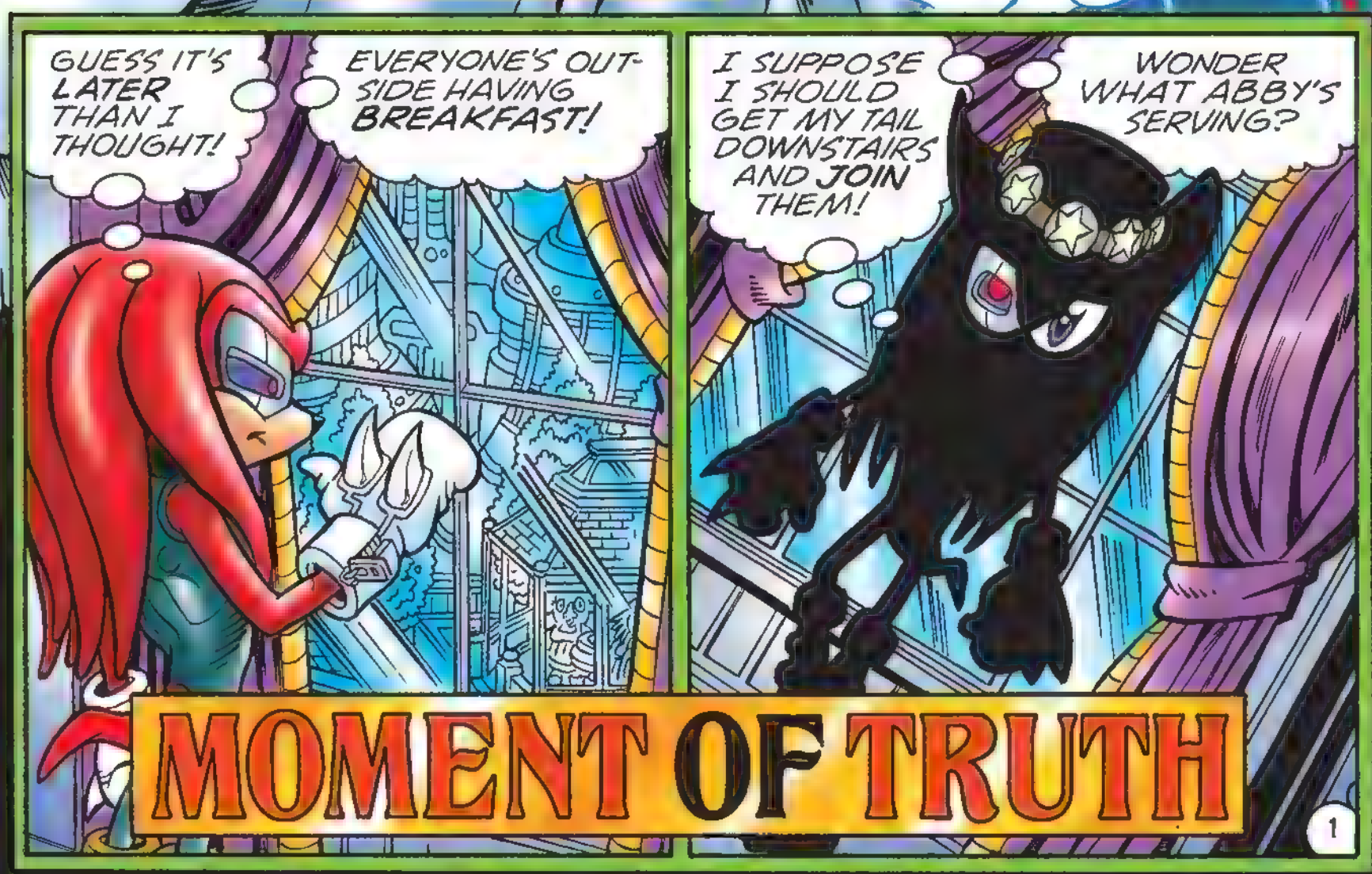
OH-- MY HEAD!

INTERLUDE
25 YEARS LATER

AFTER MEETING WITH TWO OF THE MOST BRILLIANT MINDS IN ALL OF MOBIUS, THE EMISSARY ROTOR AND ECHIDNA SCIENTIST COBAR, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT--

--SONIC AND KNUCKLES MADE THEIR WAY BACK TO KNUCKLES'S WOODLAND RETREAT WHERE BOTH OF THEIR FAMILIES AWAITED THEM.

SEVERAL HOURS OF SLEEP AND ONE SUNRISE LATER...



Ken PENDERS • Writer/Inker Steven BUTLER • Penciler
John E. WORKMAN • Letterer Jason JENSEN • Colorist

OH, DAD!

THERE YOU ARE!

GOT A MINUTE?

LARA-SU!

DON'T DO THAT!

SOMEONE COULD GET A HEART ATTACK!

ESPECIALLY ME!

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU BANGING DOWN THE DOORS...?

I MET AN OLD FRIEND OF YOURS THE OTHER DAY

--AND HE ASKED IF YOU HAVE BEGUN TRAINING ME YET!

...SIGH...

YOU NEVER GIVE UP, DO YOU?

NOPE! NOT UNTIL YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE!

THIS ISN'T SOME TRY-OUT FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL!

BESIDES, I THOUGHT I MADE MY DECISION CLEAR AND FINAL!*

*SONIC # 131.

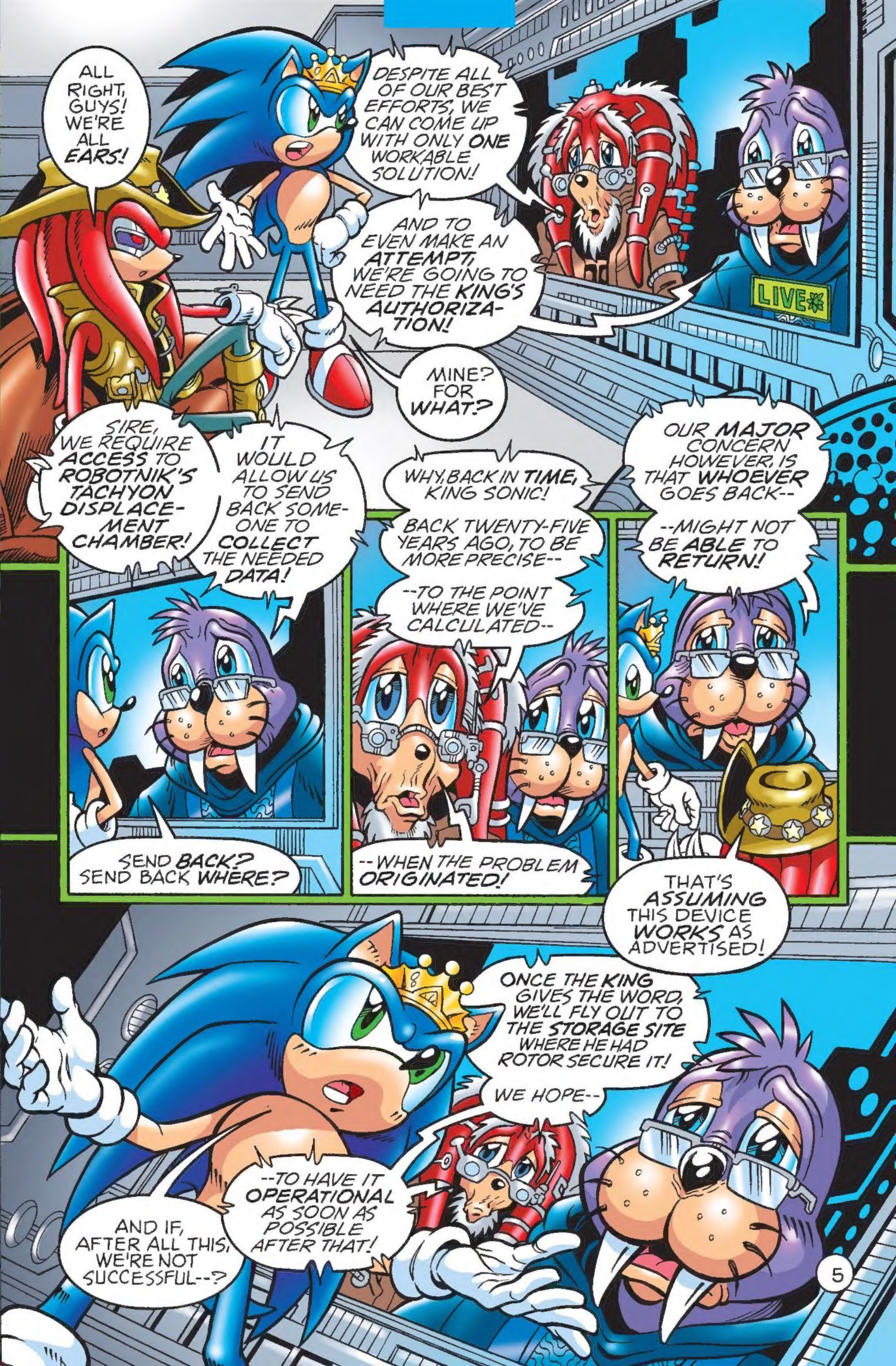
ISN'T IT POSSIBLE ONE MAY CHANGE THEIR MIND?

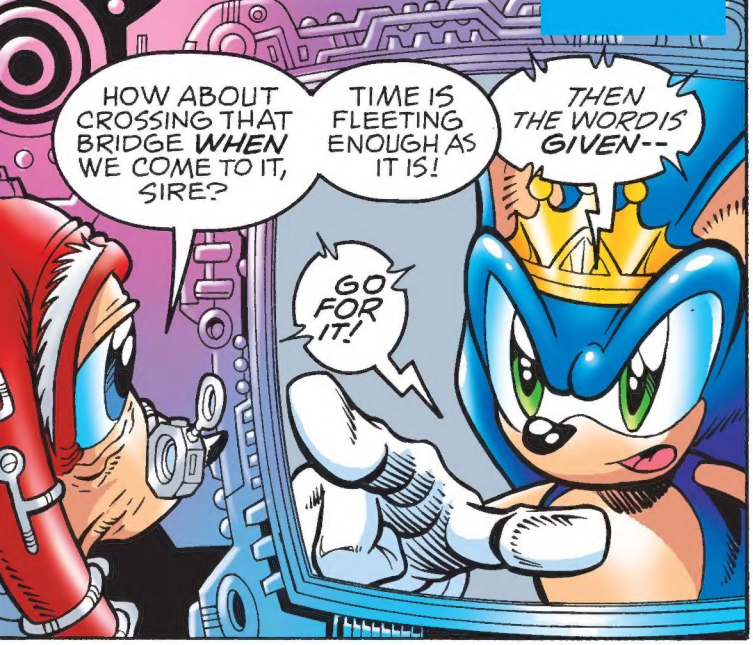
IT'S CALLED ACCEPTING THE CONSEQUENCES OF ONE'S ACTIONS!

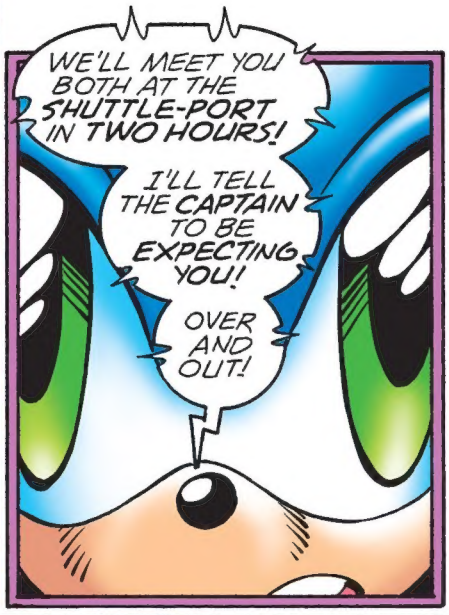
THAT'S SO UNFAIR!

"YEAH, SO'S LIFE! BY THE WAY, WHICH OLD FRIEND...?"
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
THE SIMULATIONS AREN'T PROVIDING US WITH ENOUGH DATA NECESSARY TO WORK OUT A CORRECTIVE FORMULA!
MY BIGGEST FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED--
--AND I'M AT A LOSS AS TO MAKING A SUGGESTION!
INSUFFICIENT DATA
INSUFFICIENT DATA
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM REQUIRING LONG-TERM OBSERVATION--
--WHEN TIME IS THE ONE COMMODITY WE DON'T HAVE?
TIME? DID YOU SAY TIME?
MAYBE THAT'S OUR ANSWER!
WHAT IF--WE WERE ABLE TO--
--GO BACK IN TIME?
MY DEAR ROTOR--AND I SAY THIS WITH AFFECTION AND RESPECT--
--BUT HAVE YOU GONE MAD?
EVEN WERE SUCH A CONCEPT POSSIBLE, IT'S A FIELD OF RESEARCH WHICH ECHIDNA SCIENTISTS ARE BANNED FROM EXPLORING!
IT'S NOT THE ECHIDNA SCIENTISTS I HAD IN MIND!
IF NOT THEM, WHERE ON THIS ENTIRE WORLD--
--WOULD YOU FIND ACCESS TO SUCH TECHNOLOGY.?

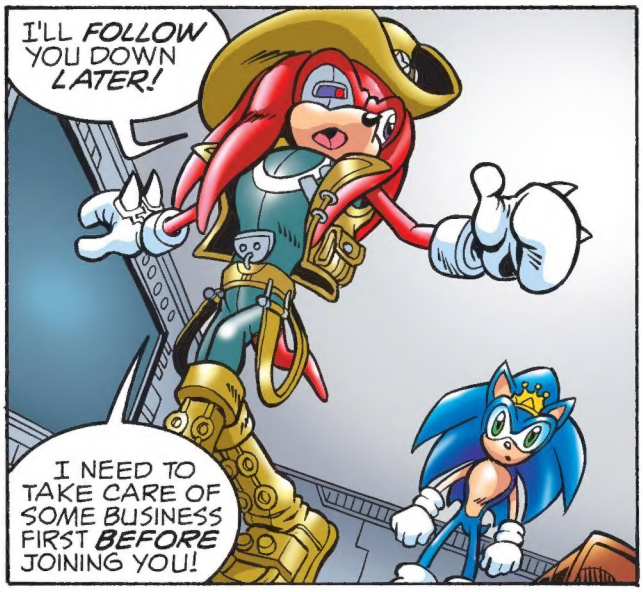
"REALLY, COBAR! I'M SURPRISED AT YOU!"
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HON?
YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN A WORD AT ALL THIS ENTIRE MORNING!
I FEEL OVERWHELMED!
I WASN'T BORN AND RAISED TO BE A KING!
LAST NIGHT WHEN I WAS WITH KNUCKLES, MEETING WITH ROTOR AND COBAR--
--THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU THERE!
YOU'RE THE REAL POWER ON THE THRONE! NOT ME!
THAT'S NOT FAIR, SONIC! DURING ALL OUR YEARS OF MARRIAGE--
--I'VE NEVER PULLED RANK ON YOU!
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT--
--BUT IF WE WEREN'T DEALING WITH KNUCKLES--
ROTOR WOULD HAVE GONE TO YOU WITH THE PROBLEM INSTEAD OF ME!
SONIC! SONIC! OVER HERE!
THERE'S A CALL ON THE VIDPHONE!
WE'LL TAKE IT IN THERE--
--IN MY DEN!

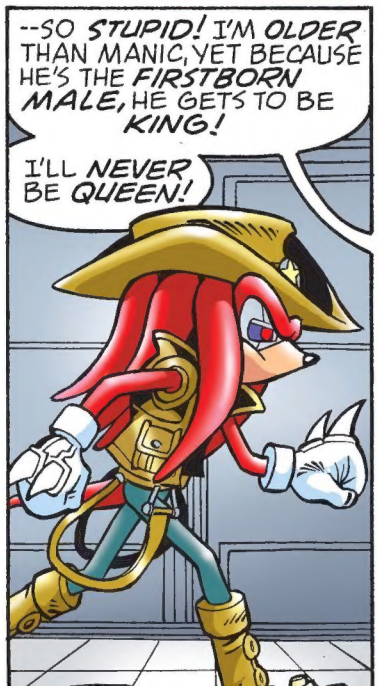

ALL RIGHT, GUYS! WE'RE ALL EARS!
DESPITE ALL OF OUR BEST EFFORTS, WE CAN COME UP WITH ONLY ONE WORKABLE SOLUTION!
AND TO EVEN MAKE AN ATTEMPT, WE'RE GOING TO NEED THE KING'S AUTHORIZATION!
LIVE
MINE? FOR WHAT?
SIRE, WE REQUIRE ACCESS TO ROBOTNIK'S TACHYON DISPLACEMENT CHAMBER!
IT WOULD ALLOW US TO SEND BACK SOMEONE TO COLLECT THE NEEDED DATA!
WHY, BACK IN TIME, KING SONIC!
BACK TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, TO BE MORE PRECISE--
--TO THE POINT WHERE WE'VE CALCULATED--
OUR MAJOR CONCERN HOWEVER, IS THAT WHOEVER GOES BACK--
--MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN!
SEND BACK? SEND BACK WHERE?
--WHEN THE PROBLEM ORIGINATED!
THAT'S ASSUMING THIS DEVICE WORKS AS ADVERTISED!
ONCE THE KING GIVES THE WORD, WE'LL FLY OUT TO THE STORAGE SITE WHERE HE HAD ROTOR SECURE IT!
WE HOPE--
--TO HAVE IT OPERATIONAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THAT!
AND IF, AFTER ALL THIS, WE'RE NOT SUCCESSFUL--?


HOW ABOUT CROSSING THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT, SIRE?
TIME IS FLEETING ENOUGH AS IT IS!
THEN THE WORDS GIVEN--
GO FOR IT!

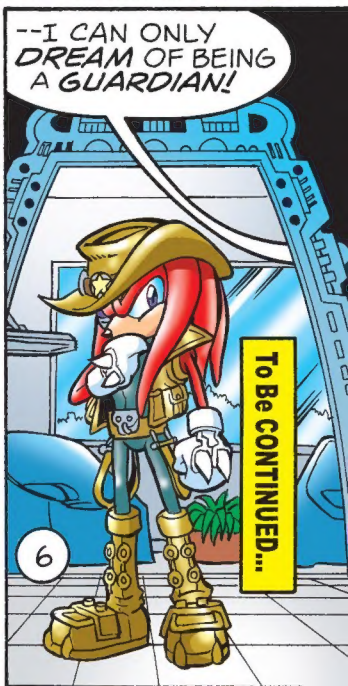

WE'LL MEET YOU BOTH AT THE SHUTTLE-PORT IN TWO HOURS!
I'LL TELL THE CAPTAIN TO BE EXPECTING YOU!
OVER AND OUT!

DON'T SAY ANYTHING TO SALLY! THERE'S NO REASON SHE AND THE KIDS HAVE TO TAG ALONG!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?


I'LL FOLLOW YOU DOWN LATER!
I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS FIRST BEFORE JOINING YOU!


--SO STUPID! I'M OLDER THAN MANIC, YET BECAUSE HE'S THE FIRSTBORN MALE, HE GETS TO BE KING!
I'LL NEVER BE QUEEN!

AT LEAST YOU'RE STILL A PRINCESS!
UNLESS MY DAD CHANGES HIS MIND--


--I CAN ONLY DREAM OF BEING A GUARDIAN!
To Be CONTINUED...